

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04209 251741Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 IO-10 AF-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

OPIC-03 XMB-02 /093 W

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R 251612Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3533

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: LISBON PRESS AND AZORES

REF: (A) FBIS LONDON P242318Z JUL 75, DELEGATION VISITING  
AZORES; (B) LISBON 4198 (NOTAL)

1. ALL THE RUMORS FIT TO PRINT: WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF  
"JORNAL NOVO," OF JULY 24, LISBON EVENING PRESS REPORTED  
IMMINENT AZOREAN PRO-INDEPENDENCE MARCH ON ANGRA DO HEROISMO,  
MAIN CITY OF TECEIRA ISLAND. LOYALIST GOP FRIGATE "JOAO BELO"  
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PAGE 02 LISBON 04209 251741Z

REPORTEDLY DISPATCHED FROM PONTA DELGADA TO CONTROL

SITUATION. SENSATIONALIST STORIES AUGMENTED BY ASSERTION OF UNNAMED SPOKESMAN FOR AZORES THAT ISLANDS WILL UNILATERALLY DECLARE INDEPENDENCE WITHIN TWO MONTHS AND DECLARE THE "DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE AZORES."

2. NO MARCH; NO BOAT: INSIDE PAGES OF JULY 25 LISBON "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS " (D/N) AND "O SECULO" (O/S) DENIED STORIES OF MARCH ON ANGRA AND FURTHER REPORTED THAT FRIGATE "JOAO BELO" REMAINS IN PONTA DELGADA. MARCH/BOTH DENIAL IN D/N CARRIED AMID REPORT THAT SOCIALISTS IN AZORES HAVE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE WHICH ATTACKED LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AFM, AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION PROGRAM.

3. LISBON PRESS CRITICIZED: SPECIAL MINISTRY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS STUDY GROUP IN AZORES ISSUED COMMUNIQUE JULY 24 (REF A). COMMUNIQUE CHARGED DISTORTED REPORTING OF AZORES EVENTS IN CONTINENTAL PRESS, REJECTED "REACTIONARY" LABEL FOR AZOREANS PRESENTING JUST DEMANDS, CITED MANIPULATION OF SITUATION BY SEPARATISTS, AND WARNED THAT IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING COULD PRECIPITATE CRISIS IN AZORES AND MAINLAND. LENGTHY EDITORIAL COMMENT IN O/S SEVERELY CRITICIZED COMMUNIQUE AS VAGUE AND CONTRADICTORY.

4. JOURNALISTS SPEAK UP: JULY 24 MEETING OF JOURNALIST UNION APPROVED RESOLUTION DEMANDING IMMEDIATE DETENTION OF "FASCIST LEADERS AND AZOREAN SEPARATISTS" PLUS COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF CAPITALIST STRUCTURE IN AZORES. COMMUNIQUE LABELLED FASCISTS AND SEPARATISTS AS SPEARHEAD FOR AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

5. VIEW OF US PRESS: BOTH JULY 25 D/N AND O/S CARRIED EFE (MADRID) STORY BY RAFAEL ALONSO ON ALLEGED US PRESS CAMPAIGN TO SEPARATE AZORES FROM PORTUGAL. CAMPAIGN LIKENED TO 1898 YELLOW JOURNALISM PRECEEDING SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR; NYT AND WASHINGTON POST POSITION ON AZORES COMPARED WITH HEARST REPORTS OF SPANISH SINKING BATTLESHIP "MAINE." CIA, JAMES RESTON, AND ASHLAND DAILY INDEPENDENT REPORTEDLY AMONG PLOTTERS TO TAKE STRATEGIC ISLANDS FROM PORTUGAL.

6. COMMENT: FOLLOWING COLLAPSE OF COALITION GOVERNMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 04209 251741Z

REPORTS OF TROUBLE IN AZORES ON TOP OF VIOLENCE IN AND REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA, ONLY INCREASES CURRENT CRISIS OF AUTHORITY IN PORTUGAL. MSC COMMUNIQUE RELATIVELY MILD BUT TO THE POINT. IF LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS IS CORRECT, GOP HAS NOT ACCEPTED IDEA THAT AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE IS INEVITABLE (REFTEL B). CARLUCCI

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